



# 2019 CT Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### KEYNOTE TALK:

### *Deep Roots, Broad Branches: Growing a Connected Community for Citizen Science*



**Jennifer Shirk, Citizen Science Association**  
*Interim Executive Director*

Jennifer works to research, advance, and serve the field of public participation in scientific research. As the Interim Executive Director of the Citizen Science Association, she builds collaborations to share transferrable knowledge of practice from across different citizen science contexts. Based at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, she has worked in a wide range of informal learning and natural resource management settings to explore promising practices of citizen science that support integrity in both research and public engagement.

Jennifer’s research interests focus on the effective use of citizen science for scientific research and conservation, particularly where complex decisions are at stake. Jennifer has a B.A. in Conservation Biology from Bard College, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell University.

### CONCURRENT SESSION PRESENTERS :

**Kristina Beaulieu, Three Rivers Community College** – Kristina is a current student in Dr. Diba Khan-Bureau's Environmental Engineering Technology program. She anticipates graduating in May 2019.

**Abby Beissinger, University of Connecticut** - Abby Beissinger is the coordinator of the Conservation Ambassador Program in the NRCA and Assistant Extension Educator in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn. She has worked in both national and international capacities to develop and implement hands-on programming for youth to engage in community-based environmental stewardship. Prior to joining the NRCA team, she served as the Service Learning

Coordinator for Groundwork Lawrence, Crew Leader for the Student Conservation Association and Assistant Director of Urban Adventures Day Camp for Mass Audubon.

**Jessica Bonamusa, Interstate Environmental Commission** – As an Environmental Analyst with IEC, Jessica works independently and as part of a team to collate, synthesize, organize and present current and historical water quality data. Jessica also coordinates and performs field work including facility inspections and ambient water quality monitoring projects, and pursue potential new sources of funding for projects. She assists the Executive Director with various program issues, grants and contracts, and develops information on which program decisions are based. Jessica earned a B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island and an M.S. in Environmental Management from Duke University.

**Greg Bugbee, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station** – Greg Bugbee is an associate scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, in New Haven, in the Department of Environmental Sciences. He is the principal investigator in the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program. He has lead aquatic plant surveys of over 250 Connecticut lakes and ponds and directed research projects on invasive aquatic plant control statewide. In addition to his work on nuisance aquatic plants, he oversees the Station's soil testing laboratory which helps citizens reduce the use of fertilizers in watersheds.

**Margot Burns, NEED** – Margot Burns is an Environmental Planner at the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) located in Essex, CT where she is the Coordinator for the Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange and RiverCOG Regional Conservation Partnership. She is Secretary of the CT Resource, Conservation, and Development Area; a member of the steering committee of the CT Land Conservation Council, sits on the board of the Friends of CT State Parks; a participant on the UConn Sea Grant Extension Advisory Board; and a member of the Chester Conservation Commission. The Agency seeks to protect the environment and beauty of its Region and the State through the land use planning process and coordination and collaboration of its many partners.

**Rick Canavan, Tighe & Bond** – Richard Canavan, PhD is a Senior Environmental Scientist with Tighe & Bond. He is a Past President of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes and a member of Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists.

**Cary Chadwick, UConn CLEAR** – Cary Chadwick is a faculty member of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and an Associate Extension Educator in the Department of Extension in the College of Ag, Health and Natural Resources. Cary joined CLEAR in 2006 and serves as the coordinator of CLEAR's Geospatial Training Program. As a geospatial educator, her role is to contribute to the hands-on technical training classes offered by the program on the use of geographic information systems and global positioning systems. Cary is also actively involved in a number of collaborative research projects that integrate geospatial technologies to better manage and understand natural resource systems.

**Janel Chap, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition** – Janel Chap received her master's degree in earth and environmental sciences from Brooklyn College, where she focused her thesis work on water quality monitoring in urban lakes. Currently, Janel is working to develop a bacteria monitoring program in the Pomperaug River Watershed while also providing support for the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition's thermal monitoring and macroinvertebrate assessment programs.

**Alicea Charamut, Connecticut River Conservancy** - Alicea Charamut is on staff at the Connecticut River Conservancy as the River Steward in Connecticut. In addition, she is a volunteer for Trout Unlimited as a

board member of her local chapter, Farmington Valley, and as Chair of the Connecticut Council. She is the Secretary of the Fisheries Advisory Council, a member of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, on the board of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources and Co-Chair of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group. Alicea holds a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut.

**Joe Clark, Three Rivers Community College** – Joe Clark is a current Environmental Engineering Technologies student at Three Rivers Community College.

**Elena Colón, Save the Sound** – Elena L. Colón is an Environmental Analyst at Save the Sound, where she coordinates Save the Sound's community science programs including the Western Sound Bacteria Monitoring Program and the Sound-wide Unified Water Study. Elena grew up in Pennsylvania, graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology from Temple University, and went on to work for the Patrick Center for Environmental Research at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. At the Patrick Center, Elena managed the Diatom Preparation Lab, monitored sites across the Delaware River basin and conducted freshwater mussel surveys and transplant studies on the tidal Delaware River.

**Sarah Crosby, Earthplace (Harbor Watch)** – Sarah Crosby is the Director of Harbor Watch, a program of Earthplace in Westport, Connecticut. Dr. Crosby is a coastal ecologist, and has a B.A. from Tufts University in Biology, an M.Sc. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Brown University. She has been with Harbor Watch for 4 years.

**Melissa Czarnowski, CT DEEP** – Melissa Czarnowski is an Environmental Analyst at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. She has three years of experience working with trail cameras to monitor streamflow. She graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, concentrating in climate and water resources.

**Don Danila, Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.** – Don is a native of Canton, CT and graduated from Cornell University in 1969. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked for 9 years as a fisheries biologist for a consulting company in southern New Jersey. There Don earned an M.S. from Rutgers University. In 1980, Don was employed at the Millstone Environmental Laboratory in Waterford, where he primarily assessed environmental impacts to fishes from Millstone Power Station operation. Following his retirement in 2010, Don worked part-time for an environmental consulting company until May of 2018. Don is a 50-year member of the American Fisheries Society and represents its Southern New England Chapter on the Fisheries Advisory Council to CT DEEP. He has been a member of the Niantic River Watershed Committee since its inception and has conducted water quality sampling since 2012. He also serves on the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve.

**Kristin DeRosia-Banick, CT Department of Agriculture** – Kristin DeRosia-Banick is an Environmental Analyst with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture, the State's lead agency for shellfish and aquaculture management. She is the lead analyst for illness investigations and shellfish recalls, and in this role manages Connecticut's *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Control Plan and statewide *Vibrio* monitoring program.

**David Dickson, University of Connecticut CLEAR** – Dave Dickson is a faculty member of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and an Associate Extension Educator in the Department of

Extension in the College of Ag, Health and Natural Resources. As the Co-Director of the NEMO program at CLEAR, he works primarily on municipal stormwater management and low impact development issues, but also provides outreach and training focused on mobile mapping technologies as a member of CLEAR's Geospatial Training Program. He is the co-creator of the Rain Garden smartphone app and National LID Atlas. When pressed, or convenient, he will admit to being a lawyer by training, although not by practice or inclination.

**Tom Fahsbender, Washington Montessori School** – Tom Fahsbender has been a math and science teacher at Washington Montessori School for the past 22 years, and is currently the science department head and middle school director. Tom has run a teacher training program for Montessori Certification, and worked with teachers on curriculum development and adolescent education. He and his students have been involved in the RBV program, turning over rocks in streams, for (many) years.

**James Fischer, The White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc.** – James Fischer is the Research Director at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. He has been working as an applied ecologist for the past 15 years. His research investigates a variety of terrestrial ecosystems while incorporating citizen scientists. He recently joined the board of the Bantam Lake Protective Association.

**Gwendolyn Flynn, CT DEEP Boating Division** – Gwendolynn Flynn holds a B.S. in Coastal Studies from the University of Connecticut. As the Lead for the Boating Division Education, Outreach, and Certification Unit in the DEEP –Boating Division, her job duties include clean and safe boating education and outreach. She is responsible for supervising the mandatory boater education program, which includes AIS education, and statewide outreach for boaters. In 2011, when zebra mussels were discovered in the Housatonic River impounds, she launched the Invasive Investigator Boat Launch Monitor program. This program provides training for volunteers who wish to interact with boaters to educate them about and teach them how they can prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Gwendolynn has served on the States Organization for Boating Access AIS Task Force, whose primary goal of the taskforce was to gather and develop site level design, development and operational guidelines that will assist access administrators with providing AIS/ANS prevention areas.

**Parker Gassett, University of Maine** – Parker Gassett's research and practice focus on partnership development for coastal environmental governance. With this interdisciplinary lens, he combines a foundation of ecological sciences with principles of community leadership and societal decision-making processes in his work. Contextualizing adaptation within social and economic transitions, Parker's work uses cross-sectoral and team science pedagogies to improve environmental management at a municipal and state scale.

**Carol Haskins, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition** – Carol Haskins currently serves as the Outreach Director for the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition. Carol's experience includes monitoring temperature, flow, and other physical characteristics of rivers and streams, along with conducting stream walks and macroinvertebrate assessments on rivers and streams.

**Sean Hayden, Lake Waramaug Task Force** – Sean Hayden is a certified soil scientist and worked his entire career on how best to use soil in cleaning up polluted stormwater runoff.

**Elizabeth Herron, URI Watershed Watch** – Elizabeth Herron is a research associate with the URI Cooperative Extension Water Program. She has been with URI Watershed Watch, a comprehensive

volunteer water quality monitoring program, for more than 25 years. Initially as a graduate research assistant, then as program coordinator, and now as program director, she has helped build the program to more than 350 volunteers assessing lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, salt ponds and marine waters throughout Rhode Island (RI) and southeastern Connecticut. The RI Department of Environmental Management, researchers and environmental consultants have come to rely on this comprehensive and long-term data set, and it has been the foundation of efforts by watershed groups to protect and restore locally critical water resources. Elizabeth works regionally and nationally to help build capacity of volunteer monitoring groups and watershed organizations.

**Jasper Hobbs, NEIWPC** – Since graduating from Kansas State University with an M.S. in geology / volcanic geochemistry, Jasper Hobbs has worked for the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission as an Environmental Analyst. He serves as program manager for the Commission’s Water Quality Standards, Volunteer Monitoring, HABS, and TMDL programs. Mr. Hobbs is the main contact for the bloomWatch app for reporting potential harmful algal blooms. His work also includes assisting the Northeast states with citizen science, and water quality education and outreach projects.

**Mary Hogue, Fairfielders Protection Land and Neighborhoods (FairPLAN)** – Mary Hogue is Co-President of Fairfielders Protection Land and Neighborhoods (FairPLAN). Mary Hogue has been awarded many times for her work promoting good stewardship of our natural resources. She is co-chair of the CT League of Conservation Voters, chair of the Town of Fairfield Forestry Committee, a member of the Sustainable Fairfield Task Force and co-President of Fairfielders Protecting Land and Neighborhoods (FairPLAN) and a board member of the Mill River Wetland Committee, both of whom helped with the Exide property clean-up, which is the point of the presentation.

**Nora Hulton, Washington Montessori School** – Nora Hulton, is a Connecticut Certified Master Wildlife Conservationist and middle school science and math teacher at Washington Montessori School, in New Preston, CT, where she is currently working on a campus-wide sustainability initiative. Hulton has a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources from SUNY Cobleskill and owned and operated her own garden center for over 20 years in Cornwall Bridge. She is an avid hiker and outdoorswoman, and she resides in Warren, where she is a member of her town’s Inland Wetlands Commission.

**Sara Jannott, Mill River Wetland Committee** – Sara Jannott has been the Grade 5 Program Director for River-Lab for three years. She actually went through the program as a student years ago and became involved again with her own children as a volunteer guide in 2008. Sara has a background in science and originally got involved because she loved making science real to students. She has lead all grade level programs but her heart lies with the Productivity lab in Grade 5. She has been actively working to update the program with NGSS methods in a new pilot while leading the majority of the current labs and train new lab leaders. Sara has done over 70 study trips with MRWC!

**Tara Jo Holmberg, Northwestern Connecticut Community College** – Tara Jo Holmberg is Professor of Environmental Science and Biology and the STEM Department Chair at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. She has served as the advisor for their environmental science and natural resources programs for 17 years and serves on several local conservation boards. Tara Jo holds an M.A. in Marine Science, a M.S. in Education, and a M.S. in Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies. In 2017, she was a finalist for the National Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award and awarded CT’s Northwest Conservation District’s Educator of the Year. She was recently named the 2018 NEEEA Formal Environmental Educator of the Year.

**Doris Johnson, CT DEEP** – Doris Johnson is an environmental analyst with the in CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection working as the outreach and education coordinator for the Environmental Justice Office. Doris develops and implements the Environmental Justice outreach and environmental education programs for all ages across the state; coordinates local outreach efforts; develops environmental education materials; customizes environmental education programs for at risk youth attending the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Initiative; and works with environmental programs in solid waste, storm water pollution, air emissions respond to communities and municipalities concerns on illegal dumping, asbestos, housing, brownfields and works to improve the quality of life for all in Connecticut.

**Lindsay Keener-Eck, Housatonic Valley Association** – Lindsay joined HVA as a conservation projects manager in January 2018. She has worked in the conservation field for over a decade and has a Master's Degree from UConn in Natural Resources & the Environment, with a focus on Human Dimensions. Prior to joining the Watershed Conservation Team at HVA, she worked in a variety of natural resource management positions with universities, state agencies, and consulting firms. Lindsay has several years of experience managing, interpreting, and visualizing GIS data, and is skilled in both map creation and geospatial analysis.

**Hillary Kenyon, Northeast Aquatic Research** – Hillary Kenyon received a B.S. Environmental Science degree from the University of Connecticut and is currently pursuing a M.S. in Soil Science at the University of Massachusetts. Hillary joined Northeast Aquatic Research in 2013 and has since fulfilled the North American Lake Management Society's qualifications to become a Certified Lake Manager. She is well versed in aquatic plant identification and water quality data analysis, and uses her experience as a consultant to help the Connecticut Federation of Lakes advocate for the protection of CT waters.

**Diba Khan-Bureau, Three Rivers Community College** –Dr. Diba Khan-Bureau is a fulltime professor and program coordinator of the Environmental Engineering Technology and the Biology TAP CSCU Pathway programs at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich CT. She is also currently an assistant research scientist at the University of Connecticut. Her research includes studying micro-algae, diatoms, as biological indicators of water quality using DNA and morphological methods, their biodiversity and importance as biological indicators of water quality in the Eightmile River and the West Branch of the Farmington River. Diba discovered a new to science diatom taxon, which she named *Didymosphenia hullii* (European Journal of Phycology, Khan-Bureau et. al 2016). She also discovered 2 known nuisance taxa, although non-native to Connecticut. She continues to study the invasive nuisance diatoms, *Didymosphenia geminata*, *Didymosphenia hullii*, and *Cymbella janischii* and the possible impact it could have in Connecticut.

**Dr. Jen Klug, Fairfield University** – Jen Klug is a biology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairfield University. She grew up swimming, sailing, and fishing in lakes in her home state of Michigan and now studies how lakes respond to environmental change. Jen works closely with local citizen scientists and is active in the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

**Meghan Lally, CT DEEP** – Meghan Lally has served as CT DEEP Volunteer Water Monitoring Program Coordinator since 2012. As such, she manages the agency's statewide Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) program and the Volunteer Stream Temperature Monitoring (V-STeM) Network and offers general guidance to watershed groups, land trusts, municipal commissions and others seeking to conduct surface water quality monitoring in Connecticut. She leads ambient fish community monitoring and stream temperature monitoring projects on behalf of the Agency, and is an active member of the DEEP-DPH fish

tissue workgroup which informs statewide fish consumption advisories. Prior to her time at DEEP, Ms. Lally worked as Director of Water Programs for an interstate watershed-based nonprofit for two and a half years. Ms. Lally holds a M.S. degree in Natural Resources and a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from the University of Connecticut. In her spare time, Ms. Lally volunteers on her town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission as well as on the Conservation Commission.

**Jennifer Lafayette, Three Rivers Community College** – Jennifer is a current student in Dr. Diba Khan-Bureau's Environmental Engineering Technology program, graduating in May 2019. She is passionate about her education, sustainable advancements in the environment, and making an impact through her field of study.

**Bill Lucey, Save the Sound** – As the Long Island Soundkeeper, Bill protects water quality and the fish and wildlife of the Sound to benefit both the people and the Sound itself. Raised in Wilton, CT, Bill grew up exploring and fishing Long Island Sound before attending the University of Vermont. He went on to serve the Peace Corps in Guatemala and lived in Alaska for 20 years where he worked as a federal biologist, commercial salmon and halibut fisherman, and as municipal biologist/coastal planner. Prior to his return to CT, he was the project manager for the Kauai Invasive Species Committee with the University of Hawaii.

**Kirsten Martin, University of Saint Joseph** – Dr. Kirsten Martin is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Saint Joseph. She is also on the board of the Scantic River Watershed Association, and is the founder and organizer of the Scantic River Water Monitoring Program.

**Tony Mobilia, Norwalk Harbor Management Commission** – Mr. Mobilia is a 20-Year member as commissioner of the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, former chairman of the Commission and current chairman of Plans and Recommendations. Mr. Mobilia is also chair of the NHMC Bridge Committee that reviews issues concerning construction of the Metro-North Walk Bridge project and refurbishment of the I-95 Yankee Doodle Bridge projects both impacting water quality in Norwalk harbor.

**Courteny Morehouse, Housatonic Valley Association** – Courteny Morehouse is a Conservation Projects Manager at the Housatonic Valley Association focused on watershed conservation, planning and implementation. In this role she manages stream corridor assessments and water quality testing of over 50 stream miles, runs an environmental youth program, and coordinates watershed planning efforts throughout the Still River in the Danbury, CT area. From this work she has developed updated protocol for stream corridor assessments to include impacts from agriculture, important in watersheds throughout northwest Connecticut, the mid-Hudson Valley and western Massachusetts. Previously she worked in northern California studying adaptive management of seasonal salt marshes.

**Alicia Mozian, Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee** - Alicia Mozian is the Conservation Director for the Town of Westport and serves as the Chair of the Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee. She has served as Director for 19 years. Ms. Mozian holds a B.S. Degree in Environmental Studies and an M.S. in Resource Management and Administration. In 2017 she received the "Wetland Community Leader" award from the Environmental Law Institute for her role on the Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee in bringing positive improvements to the brook.

**Nicole Nuttall, Mill River Wetland Committee** – Nicole Nuttall was immediately immersed in the full River-Lab program when she first volunteered. Nicole is a photographer and her eye for nature and science found a perfect outlet to share with others as a study-trip leader. She became a staple on the

elementary trips until she discovered the estuary trip where she immediately connected. Nicole was instrumental in updating the estuary program which coordinates 10 different field experiments. Since 2011, Nicole has participated in over 60 study-trips and endless planning sessions to improve the program. She is the current Program Advisor, overseeing all grade level operations.

**Edward Pawlak, Connecticut Ecosystems LLC** – Ed Pawlak is the owner of Connecticut Ecosystems LLC where he works as a Registered Soil Scientist. He is a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist, with 30+ years of experience as a consulting wetland scientist in Connecticut. Ed is a coordinator, for the CT Association of Wetland Scientists Vernal Pool Monitoring Program.

**Jean Pillo, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District** – Jean Pillo is a Watershed Conservation Project Manager for the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD). Under that general heading, she has been contracted to provide coordination services for The Last Green Valley (TLGV) Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2006. In her District role, she has authored or co-authored several US EPA approved watershed documents based to address water quality issues using the QAPP qualified data collected by the TLGV volunteers. Ms. Pillo has a BS and MS in Biology from Southern Connecticut State University and is a Certified Professional in Sediment and Erosion Control.

**John Pinto, Ph.D., Norwalk Harbor Management Commission** – Dr. Pinto is a 20-Year member as commissioner of the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, former Chairman of the Commission, and current chairman of Application Review Committee. Dr. Pinto also chaired the Dredge Committee that worked with the Army Corp to dredge the Norwalk Federal Navigation Project. Dr. Pinto is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at New York Medical College and has been involved in consulting and review of water quality programs and initiatives for Norwalk Harbor.

**Evelyn Powers, Interstate Environmental Commission** – The Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) named Evelyn Powers to the position of Executive Director in September 2017. Evelyn has been on the Commission staff for twenty years, originally joining the staff in 1998 as an Environmental Chemist. Evelyn has served as an Environmental Chemist, Senior Environmental Chemist, Associate Laboratory Director and Senior Manager. Evelyn oversees all aspects of the Commission's day-to-day operations, including overseeing staff and coordinating IEC's water quality activities with IEC's member states, the EPA, regional and local partners. Evelyn prepares and submits applications, workplans, budgets and progress reports in support of grant-funded projects and pursues new sources of funding for projects. Evelyn serves as IEC's Lead Technical Director, ensuring the Commission's laboratory maintains accreditation in the National Environmental Laboratory Approval Program—through the NYSDOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program and NJDEP's Environmental Laboratory Certification Program—and also maintains the Commission laboratory's status as an approved environmental laboratory with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Evelyn approves Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) on behalf of the Commission and ensures all environmental data collection activities performed by the Commission are performed in accordance with a QAPP approved by IEC, EPA and other organizations, as appropriate. Evelyn serves as point-of-contact for the IEC Chair, IEC Executive Committee, and Commissioners, coordinating quarterly Commission meetings and Executive Committee calls, as necessary. Evelyn also serves as IEC's representative on the Management Committees of regional programs including the NY-NJ Harbor and Estuary Program, the Long Island Sound Study, the New Jersey Water Monitoring Council, and related committees and workgroups, as appropriate. Evelyn earned a B.A. in Biological Sciences from



Wellesley College and an M.S. in Environmental Science from the College of Staten Island (City University of New York).

**Judy Preston, CT Sea Grant/LISS** – Judy Preston is the CT Outreach Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study and Connecticut Sea Grant. She does public engagement and education about Long Island Sound, including the lower CT River estuary, seeking to influence the compatible and sustainable use of the natural resources of the coast.

**Lori Romick, Orange Health Department** – Lori Romick, BS, is a Registered Sanitarian (RS) and Environmental Analyst, with 35 years of experience as an Environmental Analyst and Public Health Specialist. Her career began at the NMFS Lab in Milford and years later was hired by the State of CT as an Environmental Analyst and shellfish specialist. Her duties included water quality monitoring and intensive pollution source surveying while learning to partner with municipal departments to improve water quality. She feels fortunate to have worked with and learned from two of the most dedicated and effective water quality organizations: Harbor Watch and the Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee. Working for municipalities as an Environmental Sanitarian for the past 13 years has given her an inside track towards more effective means of improving water quality. Lori is a current and past board member and volunteer with several State and local environmental organizations and has conducted various community projects focusing on environmental education.

**Judith Rondeau, Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.** – Judy is the Assistant Director of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, and is based in Brooklyn, CT. She specializes in stormwater management, including pollutant source tracking and the installation of LID infrastructure to reduce pollutant loading to eastern Connecticut waterways and Long Island Sound. Since 2010, she has been the coordinator for the Niantic River Watershed, located in southeastern Connecticut, supporting efforts to protect and improve water quality of the Niantic River. Judy received her M.S. in water resource management from the University of Connecticut in 2008. Prior to joining the Conservation District, Judy was a municipal wetland enforcement officer and an environmental educator for the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, and was a water quality monitoring volunteer for many years.

**Carrie Rullo, Mill River Wetland Committee** – Carrie Rullo started as a guide for her oldest child in 2010 and quickly dedicated herself to the program. She was involved in many trips and her exceptional organizational skills made her the perfect Director for the Grade 5 Productivity program. She coordinated this program for almost two years before taking a hiatus while she moved abroad. Upon her return, she immediately became immersed and became a Board Member of MRWC to further the organization's community impact and guide MRWC's 50th Anniversary celebration. She currently serves as Vice President and will become President in spring.

**Hilary Snook, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – Mr. Snook is a scientist for USEPA's New England Regional Laboratory. He holds a bachelor's of Science degree from Montana State University and a Master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Tufts University. His work involves the coordination and management of water quality and aquatic biological monitoring surveys for the region, and provides a supporting role for national aquatic resource surveys presently being initiated by the EPA. He has implemented ecological assessments of condition for wadeable streams, large rivers, lakes and ponds, and near coastal waters for the past twenty years with a focus on development of biological indicators for assessing aquatic resource condition, emerging contaminants, and the transport of

contaminants through food webs and the environment. He has spent the past 25 years working on water quality and other hydrologic issues and problems.

**Nikki Spiller, Harbor Watch** – Nikki has been working with Harbor Watch since 2009. In her position as Associate Director of Research she oversees Harbor Watch monitoring projects and acts as a team leader for sample collection and laboratory testing. She holds a BS in environmental science and policy.

**Geoffrey Steadman, Norwalk Harbor Management Commission** – Geoffrey Steadman is an environmental planning consultant who has been actively involved with coastal management in Connecticut for his entire professional career over the past 39 years. Much of his work involves the preparation of management policies, plans, and guidelines for beneficial use and conservation of coastal land and water resources. Among Mr. Steadman's past and current clients are the Connecticut towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Lyme, Essex, Fairfield, Greenwich, Middletown, Milford, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Stamford, Stratford, West Haven, Westport, and the Borough of Fenwick. In addition, he serves as the professional staff to the Fairfield, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, and Stratford harbor management commissions on an ongoing basis. As staff to the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission for 29 years, he has had a principal role in all of the NHMC's water quality initiatives. As staff to the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission, he served as the Commission's representative throughout the planning and regulatory process for the Exide remediation project, responsible for all commission reports and correspondence.

**Summer Stebbins, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station** – Summer Stebbins is an environmental biologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, in the Department of Environmental Sciences. She is the lead surveyor in the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program where she has been employed for the past four years and is a coauthor of Agricultural Station's "Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification Guide."

**Chris Sullivan, CT DEEP** – Chris Sullivan is an environmental analyst with CT DEEP. He has been coordinating the planning and implementation efforts for IWRM over the past 3 years. He previously managed the SEARCH program for high school students to conduct water quality monitoring in Connecticut and is a previous Chairman of the Connecticut Envirothon program. He obtained a BS in Environmental Science from Allegheny College and more recently obtained an MPA from the University of New Haven.

**C. Peter Van Dine, Friends of Bolton Lakes** – Mr. Van Dine spent his career creating and using analytic computer programs to solve engineering problems. In retirement he is applying the same skills to lake and stream monitoring.

**Rebekah White, Friends of the Lake** – Rebekah White is a board member of Friends of the Lake and oversees the water quality monitoring program. She also serves on the executive board as Treasurer for the CT Federation of Lakes. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Western CT State University. She resides on Lake Lillinonah where she enjoys kayaking, wakesurfing and serving as a citizen scientist.

**Emily H. Wilson, University of Connecticut CLEAR** – Emily Wilson is a Geospatial Educator at the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use and Research. She has been with UConn since 2000 and is involved in

a variety of remote sensing and GIS projects as well as web work with the goal of providing easy access to geospatial information and maps.

**Darcy Winther, CT DEEP** – Darcy is an Environmental Analyst III in the Land and Water Resources Division, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology/Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire, and the New England Regional Soil Science Certificate from the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Winther’s previous professional experience has included positions within the Department of Environmental Protection as a Wildlife Division Research Assistant, a Legislative Assistant for the Bureau of Natural Resources, and an Environmental Analyst with the Rivers Management Program. Darcy has also been an instructor/assistant park naturalist at a local nature center for a number of years, and is a member of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.

**Pat Young, Salmon River Watershed Partnership** – Pat Young serves as the Program Director for the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed and the Salmon River Watershed Partnership. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Resource Management and a Master’s in Environmental Education. Her previous experience includes work as a Natural Resource Specialist with a Conservation District and work in municipal land-use as an Environmental Planner, Wetlands Agent, Land-use Administrator and Environmental Health Inspector for several CT municipalities.

**Jennifer Yoxall, Carmody, Torrance, Sandak & Hennessey** – Jennifer Yoxall, counsel in Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey’s Business and Real Estate Services Groups, focuses her practice on land use, general municipal and environmental law. Jennifer has extensive experience advising municipal land use agencies in applying state and local laws to their activities as well as interpreting, drafting and revising their regulations. She also represents applicants before land use agencies. Jennifer’s comprehensive understanding and appreciation of municipal and applicant perspectives enables her to anticipate and resolve issues arising in land use proceedings. When land use decisions are appealed, Jennifer argues on behalf of her clients before the Connecticut Superior and Appellate Courts.

**Bin Zhu, University of Hartford** – Dr. Bin Zhu is an Associate Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies Program at the University of Hartford in Connecticut. He received his Ph.D. in biology and MPA from Syracuse University. Dr. Zhu was a post-doctoral associate at Cornell University and a research scientist at the Finger Lakes Institute. His research focuses on ecology and management of invasive species and assessment of water quality using physical, chemical and biological parameters. He has published a number of articles in scientific journals such as Aquatic Botany, Ecosystems, Fisheries, Freshwater Science, Journal of Aquatic Plant Management, Journal of Great Lakes Research and Journal of Plant Ecology. Currently he is also an Associate Editor for Journal of Aquatic Plant Management and Journal of Plant Ecology.